Home Going Celebration for

# Ted J. Smith



*Sunrise:*
July 25, 1930

*Sunset:*
January 9, 2011

Thursday, January 20, 2011
11:00 a.m.

Hilltop Community Church
3118 Shane Dr.
Richmond, CA 94806

Pastor Ray Landry Officianting

# Obituary

**Ted J. Smith** was born on July 25, 1930 to Mrs. Inez Butler in Crossett, Arkansas he was raised by his Uncle Ben Wright in Crossett, Arkansas; later moving to Richmond, California.

Ted became a resident of Richmond, CA at the age of 12. After graduating from Richmond High School he served in the U.S. Army from 1952-1959 he then attended Contra Costa College and UC Berkeley. In 1967, he married Carolyn Harris where they continued to raise a blended family.

Ted and Carolyn established Smith Action Maintenance Company (SAMCo) in 1970 with numerous parking lot sweeping, including Safeway Stores, Inc. and B.A.R.T. Ted then started a street sweeping service with 12 municipalities, while his favorite was the City of Richmond and the various military bases. Later, through the Small Business 8(a) Program, he, Carolyn and brother-in-law, Henry Bynum, began contracting with the government and private businesses. They provided janitorial and facility maintenance which provided jobs and experience for approximately 1,000 Northern California families.

Ted was a strong believer in "Black Economic Development" and he, along with the late Oscar Coffey Jr. and the late C. J. Patterson, established the Black Chamber of Commerce in Oakland in 1977. This organization was instrumental in securing the funding for the development of Oakland's Preservation Park, the Oakland City Center Project and the development of the Port of Oakland.

Ted was a member of the American Public Works Association, the Association of General Contractors , the "Chicago Rat Pack" , the Golden State Business League, the Richmond Rotary, the Oakland Black Board of Trade and Commerce, the National Association of Minority Contractors , the National Urban League and various other business organizations.

Ted was one of the first to sit on the City of Richmond, Human Relations Board. His first issue was that he didn't see any contractors or workers that looked like him, so he stopped all the work until people of color were hired. He also was a planning commissioner for the City of Richmond and a member of the City of Richmond Design Review committee.

Ted J. Smith was the first African American to be appointed to the Contra Costa Development Association, and was an advocate in getting height requirements lowered, so that Asian and Hispanic citizens could work as police and fireman in the Richmond community.

Ted loved giving people an opportunity to improve their lot in life. He adopted the Richmond Build program, which is a pre-construction apprenticeship training program designed to offer basic skill development for underserved Richmond residents. He gave back to the Richmond community in various ways including regular contributions to the Richmond Food Pantry and to numerous community based organizations. He was never too busy to offer advice and assistance to those less fortunate than himself. Ted was always available to the Richmond Clergy community, Ministers could always count on him when they needed his participation. Ted gave food to various churches, not only during the holidays, but throughout the year.

Ted was very active in the Republican Party having been appointed to the Republican Party Central Committee in 1993, and was a member of the prestigious National Republican Senate Congressional Committee. He attended the swearing in celebrations of President Richard Nixon, President Ronald Reagan, and President George Bush Sr.

Ted received numerous awards including the Who is Who World Wide, Global Business Leadership award, West Contra-Costa Times Chamber award, Otis Cartright award, Booker T. Washington award, NAACP Lifetime Membership Award and the City of Richmond Community Service award.

Ted is survived by his children: Madeline Heldris, Melody Smith Cooper (Rodrick), Lydia Smith Bedford (Bailey), Terry Smith (Maureen), Lee Smith, Robert Smith, and 42 years with Carolyn James Smith, his mother-in-law, Novelean Harris and five brother-in-laws, sisters, Annie Grigbsy, Margie and Rev. DeFudge, niece Patty Kellog, and Godchildren, Niani Ware (Marcus), Lynda and Jennifer Jackson, Allyson Seals, Marlow Williams, and host of grandchildren and great grandchildren, nieces and great nieces, nephews and great nephews, and many special friends. He will be greatly missed by his good buddy Eddie Dillard.

Ted is preceded in death by his mother, Mrs. Inez Butler, Uncle Ben Wright, sister, Helen Harris, brother, Billie Rhone, son, Michael Smith, daughter, Gaynel Smith, and grandson, Michael Smith, Jr.

# Homegoing Program

Officiant.....Pastor Ray Landry
Independent Community Church

Musical Prelude..... Dennis Braxton

Processional.....Clergy & Family

Old Testament.....Rev. Otis Glover
New Testament.....Rev. Mary Danner

Invocation.....Pastor Ray Landry

Selection.....Rev. T. O. Peacock
"May The Work I've Done"

Reflection.....(3 minutes please)
Mike Davenport
Jim Levine
Todd Kurtin
Elder Henry Washington
Nat Bates

Selection.....Bobbie Edison / Eddie Hall

Family Encouragement.....Evangelist Madeline Heldris

Resolution.....Carlin Colbert

Acknowledgments.....Niani Ware

Obituary Reading.....Lana Bolds

Eulogy.....Pastor Lloyd Farr

Departing View.....Rose Manor

Music Selection....."Going Up Yonder"

## *Don't Quit*

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must, but don't you quit.
Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about,
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up though the pace seems slow--
You may succeed with another blow.
Often the goal is nearer than,
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up,
When he might have captured the victor's cup,
And he learned too late when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.
Success is failure turned inside out--
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt,
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems so far,
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit--
It's when things seem worst that you must not quit.

- Author unknown

**Active Pallbearers:**

Terry Smith
DuWayne Smith
Rashad Smith
Scuar Daniels
Kenneth (Monk) Williams

**Honorary Pallbearers:**

Kenneth Bridges
Nate Bates
Chamari McDonald
Anthony Flenory
James Harris Jr.

## *Thank You:*

The Family of Ted J. Smith wishes to thank everyone who prayed, sent flowers Cards and contributed in any way. May God Bless each and everyone.

**Arrangements Entrusted to:**

Lydia Stewart and the staff of Rose Manor

Mike Davenport, DP Security
Antwon Cloird and Staff
Richmond Police Department

**Interment**

Rolling Hills Cemetery
4100 Hilltop Road, El Sobrante, CA

Repass: 770 South 13th Street, Richmond, CA